4

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

ヘカアー

PEKAA (FLASH)

...HOW CAN SHE BE SO CONFI-DENT?

BUT DON'T WORRY! THE SOS BRIGADE SHALL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM AT ONCE!

I'VE GOT THE GIST OF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE'VE GOT *A HUGE CASE* ON OUR HANDS!

◎ Mysterique Sign I

SOFTLY... AND SURELY, THAT WAS THE PREMONITION I HAD.

...AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THIS IS GOING TO BE A PAIN IN THE NECK.

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

4

ORIGINAL STORY NAGARU TANIGAWA

MANGA GAKU TSUGANO

CHARACTER DESIGN: NOIZI ITO

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AS EXPECTED, THE MELANCHOLY FROM TANABATA WAS LONG GONE...

...AND HARUHI WAS BACK TO DOING WHATEVER SHE WANTED BY THE TIME EXAMS CAME AROUND.

PAPER: TERM REPORT FOR THE YEAR XXXX

XX年度 期末考查 36

THAT WAS EASIER THAN I EXPECTED.

AS FOR ME...

HOW'D YOU DO IN ENGLISH I?

...I WAS TOTALLY DOWN IN THE DUMPS, AS THOUGH HARUHI HAD PASSED THE BATON OF MELANCHOLY ON TO ME.

WHEW... THERE WAS SOMEBODY WORSE.

BYU (BLAST)

OF COURSE, I DIDN'T EXPECT POLICY...

I'M SHIVERING EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO HOT...

THAT'S ODD.

ALL CLUBS WERE ON HIATUS DURING EXAMS.

HEY, KYON! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

...TO HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THIS GIRL...

...HUH?

GOOD GRIEF.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT TEST WAS REALLY EASY.

THIS THING MAKES THE MODERN JAPANESE TEST LOOK EASY.

I CAN'T.

WHAT... YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT THIS IS?

MAN, IT DOESN'T GET ANY MORE AGGRAVATING THAN THIS.

SHE ALWAYS FINISHES HER TEST IN HALF THE TIME AND SLEEPS DURING THE REST.

なにこの？

EMBLEM?

SEAL POUCH

I WISH SHE COULD BE NORMAL AT LEAST ON AN AVERAGE DAY—

THIS IS...

...THE SOS BRIGADE *EMBLEM!*

SCREEN: PAGE/SOURCE, PREVIEW, SOS BRIGADE, SAVE THE WORLD BY OVERLOADING IT WITH FUN HARUHI SUZUMIYA BRIGADE, WELCOME TO THE SOS BRIGADE'S WEBSITE

THIS WEBSITE YOU MADE...IT'S *SERIOUSLY* USELESS!

THIS SHOULD LIVEN UP THE FRONT PAGE!

I DID SOME REDESIGNING SO WE'LL GET MORE HITS.

...NOW I REMEMBER.

THE SOS BRIGADE HOME-PAGE.

THE ONE I MADE A WHILE BACK PER HARUHI'S ORDERS...

... IT'S A PAIN FOR ME TOO.

NO WAY. SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN.

NOBODY'S GOING TO READ IT THOUGH.

EVEN SOMETHING LIKE A "BRIGADE CHIEF BLOG" WOULD PROBABLY WORK BETTER ...

OF COURSE, THE PAGE ONLY CONSISTED OF A FRONT PAGE WITH AN ACCESS COUNTER.

SCREEN: YOU ARE THE 53RD VISITOR.

IF I DO EVERY-THING, THE BRIGADE MEMBERS WON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO!

I'M THE *BRIGADE CHIEF!*

DO IT YOUR-SELF—

PUT THIS SYMBOL AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE.

IN ANY CASE!

KATA

KATA

KATA (CLICK)

.....
.....

SINCE I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT I MADE IT...

I COULD ONLY PRAY THAT THE SITE WOULD REMAIN UNPOPULAR ...

SOS団

界を大いに盛り上げるための

涼宮ハルヒの団

SOS団のホームページへようこそ！

AND SO, HARUHI'S EMBLEM NOW ADORNED THE SOS BRIGADE HOMEPAGE.

WE WERE PRESENTED WITH THE "REQUEST" A SHORT WHILE LATER.

GACHA (CLICK)

ガチャ

KON (KNOCK)

コンコン

KON

HAA (SIGH)

はぁ

I WAS EXPECTING A VISITOR SINCE YOU KNOCKED ON THE DOOR.

DON'T CONFUSE ME LIKE THAT.

COME IN... OH.

IT'S JUST YOU, KYON.

I WAS TRYING TO BE CONSID-ERATE, YOU KNOW.

GI (SQUEAK)

ギ

WE DON'T GET ANY VISITORS.

SCREEN: WELCOME TO THE SOS BRIGADE'S WEBSITE

.....

THE HELL IS THIS?

ANYWAY, KYON! LOOK AT THIS.

GEO-GRAPHY MATH A

PIKU PIKU

CHATCHA

NOT THAT I HAVE THE TIME TO BE WORRYING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE

...

HYUUU (WHOOSH)

SHE'S SO LOVABLE, BUT DITZY AT THE SAME TIME.

MY HEART

...I WAS GETTING PRETTY WORRIED WHEN SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HER OWN MISSION(?) WAS.

LIKE DURING OUR TIME TRAVEL INCIDENT...

OR ELSE I'LL END UP SEEING ASAHINA CHANGING HER CLOTHES IN THE FLESH.

KA-CHASHI

COULD IT BE...A HACKER!?

I REFRESHED THE SITE A BUNCH OF TIMES, BUT NOTHING CHANGED.

BEATS ME...I HAVEN'T CHECKED THE SITE THE PAST FEW DAYS.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN LIKE THIS?

A CONSPIRACY...!? AN ACT OF TERRORISM AGAINST THE SOS BRIGADE!?

IT COULD BE THE WORK OF SOME AGENCY OUT THERE.

WHO DID THIS? FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

NOW I'M PISSED...THIS IS OBVIOUSLY SOME SORT OF INTIMIDATION!

MO

MO (ROAR)

.....

THERE COULDN'T BE ANYBODY THAT BORED.

NO WAY...

HM?

KNOCK KNOCK

KKK. THE FREE-MASONS..

UM... I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND. U_U

PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IT'S AN EMER-GENCY!!

MIKURU-CHAN, ARE YOU HURT!?

!?

GACHA (CLICK)

EXCUSE ME.

HUH?

ACTUALLY... I BROUGHT A VISITOR.

SORRY ABOUT BEING LATE.

KO (TAP)!!

A SECOND-YEAR... *EMIRI KIMIDORI-* SAN.

SOME PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD ARE TRULY COMMENDABLE.

OH, SORRY... THAT SOUNDED LIKE I WAS REFERRING TO HARUHI, NOT THIS GIRL.

IN ANY CASE, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO THIS PERSON.

...THE SOS BRIGADE TO LOOK FOR YOUR MISSING BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?

SO BASICALLY, YOU WANT...

HE HASN'T COME TO SCHOOL FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW.

...YES.

OF COURSE, I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THAT I'D EVER MADE THE THING.

PAPER: SOS BRIGADE, ACCEPTING ALL COMERS. IF THERE'S A PROBLEM OR SOMETHING'S ON YOUR MIND, PLEASE COME TO US. YOU'LL FIND US HERE

SOS団

☆よろず相談受け付けます。
困った事・悩み事 ありましたら
下さい。
はこちら(♡)

AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, SHE SAID THAT SHE'D COME AFTER SEEING THE POSTER I'D MADE.

DID YOU TRY CALLING HIM?

HE'S RARELY ABSENT... YET HE EVEN MISSED A TEST DAY.

YEAH... SHE'S DEFINITELY ENJOYING HERSELF.

KATAN (CLATTER)

...I'VE GOT THE GIST OF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

YES...HE DOESN'T ANSWER HIS CELL OR HIS HOME PHONE.

I WENT TO HIS HOUSE, BUT...THE DOOR WAS LOCKED.

SHUPAA (WHAP)

THE ELITE MEMBERS OF THE SOS BRIGADE SHALL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM AT ONCE!

ENIGMATIC LITERARY GIRL

ENIGMATIC UNRUFFLED YOUTH

ENIGMATIC MAID

O-OKAY ...

HEY, NOW ...

OTHER: NORMAL HUMAN BEING

DON (BAM)

IN OTHER WORDS, WE'VE GOT A HUGE CASE ON OUR HANDS!

WE CAN BARELY HANDLE OUR OWN PROBLEMS ...

IS IT REALLY OKAY TO ACCEPT JUST LIKE THAT?

I'LL NEED YOU TO GIVE ME THE DETAILS, THEN.

THIS IS AN ACTUAL "JOB REQUEST," ISN'T IT?

消えた彼氏を追え!!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND'S FAMILY?

...HE LIVES BY HIMSELF.

I BELIEVE THAT HIS PARENTS LIVE OVER-SEAS.

BLACKBOARD: AFTER THE MISSING BOYFRIEND!!

I BELIEVE IT WAS HONDURAS.

Flag of Honduras

NO.

OHH?

WHAT COUNTRY? CANADA?

BLACKBOARD: AFTER THE MISSING BOYFRIEND!!, HON—

WHERE WAS THAT AGAIN..?

...DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

WELL, WELL!

SA (SWSH)

HA-HA... HON-DURAS, HUH.

HONDU

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL...

LIAR.

YOU REALIZE THAT THIS SOUNDS PRETTY SERIOUS?

KYORO (GLANCE)

THERE ISN'T ANY SIGN THAT HE'S IN HIS ROOM.

I'M...SO WORRIED.

WHAT WAS THAT?

HUH?

GATAN (CLATTER)

YES... YOU WERE A COMMON TOPIC OF CONVER-SATION.

HE MENTIONED BEING NEIGHBORS WITH THE SOS BRIGADE...

IN ANY CASE...I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME TO SEE THE SOS BRIGADE.

HE SERVES AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPUTER SOCIETY.*

THAT'S WHY I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU.

.....

*SHORT FOR THE COMPUTER RESEARCH SOCIETY. SEE VOLUME 1.

THAT POOR PRESIDENT, HUH?

...I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT.

...THAT THIS ORDEAL WOULD END WELL...

...AS I WATCHED KIMIDORI-SAN GAZE LOVINGLY AT THE COMPUTER, I UNCHARACTERISTICALLY BEGAN PRAYING...

MIIIN (BZZZ)

AND...

...THAT SHE WOULDN'T FIND OUT HOW THAT COMPUTER HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HER PRESIDENT...

MIIIN

HEY, HARUHI... SHOULD YOU BE SO QUICK TO OFFER TO HELP?

WHAT IF WE CAN'T SOLVE HER PROBLEM?

MIIIN

PAPER: ADDRESS

住所

P! (FWIP)

LO

HE'S PROBABLY JUST COOPED UP WITH A TWO-MONTH-LATE CASE OF MAY SICKNESS.

WE CAN.

WE JUST HAVE TO SMACK HIM AROUND A FEW TIMES AND DRAG HIM BACK HERE.

IT'S VERY SIMPLE!

MIIIN

MIIIN

ASAHINA-SAN, ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH KIMIDORI-SAN?

SHE'S IN THE CLASS NEXT DOOR, SO I'VE SEEN HER DURING JOINT CLASSES.

NO, I'VE NEVER TALKED TO HER BEFORE.

MIIIN

SHU (SWISH)

.....

ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY...?

TA (APPEAR)

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE PLACE.

KAN

KAN (CLANG)

IF HE RESISTS, YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO KILL HIM.

KAN

YOU'RE JUST JOKING, RIGHT?

THIS LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY APARTMENT.

MAYBE THE LANDLORD WILL LEND US A KEY IF WE ASK?

LET'S TRY THAT.

カチン
KACHIN (CLICK)

GACHI
ガチャ
GACHA
GACHI

I WONDER IF THERE'S A WAY TO OPEN IT.

GACHI (RATTLE)

ガチャ
GACHA (CLACK)

.....

IT WAS ALREADY OPEN?

...OH?

.....

DOKA

DOKA

DOKA

WHERE ARE YOU? COME ON OUT!

OKAY!

DOKA (STOMP)

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

BAIU

WE'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE...

.....

NOT A SOUL TO BE FOUND.

BAFU (WHOOMPH)

I EXPECTED HIM TO BE CURLED UP IN A BALL IN SOME CORNER HUGGING HIS KNEES.

...THAT'S ODD.

GUI (GRAB)

?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

DID HE REALLY GO INTO HIDING?

CONS DER THE POSSIB LITY THAT HE ISN'T A HIKIKO-MORI!

MAYBE THE CONVENIENCE STORE?

WHERE ELSE MIGHT A HIKIKO-MORI GO...

I CONCUR.

IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE LEFT.

SFX: TSUI (TURN)

THIS ROOM FEELS ODDLY DISCONCERTING.

THOUGH IT MAY ONLY FEEL SIMILAR BUT BE FUNDA-MENTALLY DIFFERENT ...

SIMILAR TO A SENSATION I AM FAMILIAR WITH.

THIS ROOM HAS THE SAME SCENT...

CLOSED SPACE.

...SIMILAR TO WHAT?

FOUND WARABIMOCHI!!

...NO, I'M MERELY USING THE WORD SCENT IN A FIGURATIVE SENSE.

HUH? TASTE TEST IT?

IT EXPIRED YESTERDAY

THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.

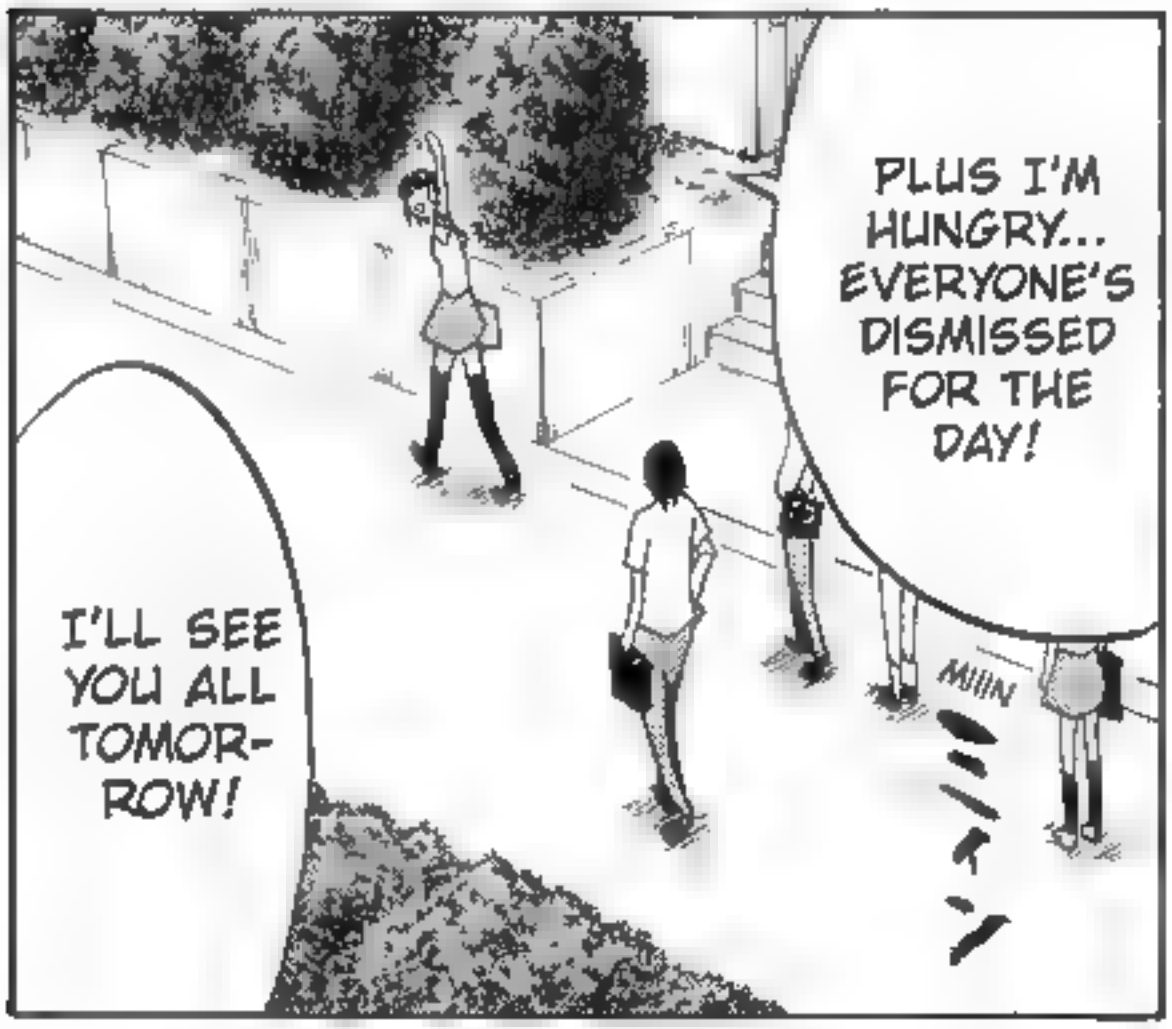
PHASE SHIFT IS TRANSPIR-ING.

A DIMEN-SIONAL RIFT EXISTS.

YOU COULD SAY IT'S A FEELING ...

...A SENSATION TRANSCEND-ING THE FIVE SENSES.

MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
(BZZZ)


PLUS I'M HUNGRY... EVERYONE'S DISMISSED FOR THE DAY!
I'LL SEE YOU ALL TOMOR-ROW!
MIIN

...WELL, IT'LL WORK ITSELF OUT EVENTUALLY.

...SHE'S...
...ALREADY LOST INTEREST, HUH...

WELL...HARUHI WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO HADN'T HAD LUNCH YET.

TEN MINUTES LATER...

MIIIN

MIIIN

...UM.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

...OR SO I THOUGHT.

.....

じわっ JIWAKA

じわっ JIWAKA

じわっ JIWAKA (SCUTTLE)

MIIIN

MIIIN

KAN

WE CANNOT ALLOW SUZUMIYA-SAN TO FIND US ...

KAN (CLANG)

ISN'T THAT CORRECT, NAGATO-SAN?

KAN

THOSE TWO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROOM WE WERE JUST IN.

TA (BAM)

WITHIN THIS ROOM...

...AN AMALGAMATED ALTERNATE SPACE-TIME WITH NON-CORROSIVE TENDENCIES IS OCCURRING INDEPEN-DENTLY IN A RESTRICTIVE MODE.

...WELL, WE CAN DELIBERATE ON THAT LATER.

NO E

NO E

NO E

NO (POOF)

E+

...BUT THE FORMER GIVES OFF A DIFFERENT SCENT.

THE LATTER ORIGINATES FROM SUZUMIYA-SAN...

HERE WE GO AGAIN.

MY SENSES SAY IT IS SIMILAR TO CLOSED SPACE.

I SEE ...

FU (WAVE)

THE PRESIDENT'S DISAPPEAR-ANCE IS A RESULT OF THIS ABNORMAL SPACE, CORRECT?

YES.

AH!

WA!
...

DOON
(BOOM)

EEEEK!?

DO
(DMM)

DO

WHAT'S SHE RECITING ...!?

HEY!!

DO

AT LEAST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO TELL YOU TO WAIT...

DAAAMN IT!!

カ

カ

カ

UUUU
(HOOOWL)

カ

ENTRY
CODE
ANALYZED.

!?

THIS PLACE OVERLAPS NORMAL SPACE.

A PHASE HAS MERELY SLIPPED OFF.

ううう

IT IS DECEP-TIVELY SIMILAR.

IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE SUZUMIYA-SAN'S CLOSED SPACE.

I UNDER-STAND.

I SURE DON'T...

I SEE.

HOWEVER, A SECTOR OF THE DATA IN THIS SPACE CONTAINS TRACES OF JUNK DATA ORIGINATING FROM HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

SO SHE WAS MERELY THE TRIGGER.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?

THE PLAIN IS SO WIDE AND FLAT THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE HORIZON.

AN OCHER-COLORED MIST FILLS THE SKY AND SEEMS TO GO ON FOREVER...

UUU (HOWL)

NAGATO-SAN.

SU CLIFTO

IT WOULD SEEM SO.

I WOULD PRESUME THAT THIS ALTERNATE SPACE APPEARED IN HIS ROOM AND TRAPPED HIM WITHIN.

UUU

IS THE COMPUTER SOCIETY PRESIDENT HERE?

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO FIRST SO I CAN PREPARE MYSELF

...I WASN'T TOO LATE THIS TIME.

WAIT!

NOTHING.

.....!?

GAKA (KRAK)
B BZZ
GICH
BI
GICHI
B
IT HAS COME.

THAT'S WHY I SAID THIS WOULD BE A PAIN...

HMMMMM...

IT INSTINCTIVELY STARTED ROARING...

...I CAN SENSE A CLEARLY HOSTILE INTENT.

MYSTERIQUE SIGN I : END

DO YOU KNOW AN INSECT CALLED THE CAVE CRICKET?

GUESS WHAT? I USED TO BE KNOWN AS A BUG EXPERT.

AND I'VE NEVER SEEN A CAVE CRICKET LIKE THIS.

...HEY, WHAT IS THAT?

...THE CREATOR OF THIS SPACE.

GOAAAAA (ROOOOAR)

THE CREATOR OF THIS SPACE... YOU SAY?

BUT IT BEGAN WITH HER.

THE CAUSE LIES ELSE-WHERE.

EEEK!

DON'T TELL ME... THIS IS HARUHI'S DOING AGAIN?

UN-REAL.

MY STRENGTH IS ONE TENTH OF WHAT IT NORMALLY IS.

WHILE IMPERFECT, MY POWER APPEARS TO BE EFFECTIVE HERE.

OH?

POU (POOF)

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT NAGATO ...

...WHAT'S THAT BUG? WHERE'S THE PRESI-DENT?

.....

PERHAPS IT WAS JUDGED THAT THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT?

GYORO (GLARE)

IT IS USING THE BRAIN TISSUE OF A MALE STUDENT TO HEIGHTEN THE PROBABILITY OF ITS EXISTENCE.

GI (SCREE)

GI

GICHI (SCREE)

A SUB-SPECIES OF DATA LIFE FORMS.

PRE-CISELY.

.....

PERHAPS THE PRESIDENT IS INSIDE THAT THING?

DEFEATING THE BUG SHOULD CAUSE THIS ALTERNATE SPACE TO COLLAPSE ...

YES.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISUALIZATION OF A SOURCE OF FEAR, CORRECT?

THIS CAVE CRICKET IS...I SEE.

GIRI (SCRITCH)

I APPRECIATE THE ELEMENTARY METAPHOR.

THAT SHOULD MAKE THIS QUITE SIMPLE.

WA-WAH! IT MOVED! IT MOVED!

JUST GET IT OVER WITH.

FU (FWIP)

THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY... IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

THIS IS MUCH EASIER THAN HUNTING "CELESTIALS."

WISSHI (SQUEEZE)

WHEN SHE DOES THIS, I'M STUCK

HEY... AS USUAL, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON!

TA (LEAP)

ROGER THAT.

BASHI (SHING)

WHOA ...!?

GOO (ROAR)

PAAN (BLAST)

OH!

IS IT OVER?

SAAA
CWHOOOSH

THAT REALLY WAS EASY.

...HEY, NOW.

INTERNAL DATA HAS BEGUN TO OVERFLOW.

THE ORIGIN OF THIS LIFE FORM...

...“IT” LANDED ON EARTH.

APPROX-IMATELY TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY MILLION YEARS AGO...

...AND AT THE TIME, THERE WAS NOTHING ON EARTH CAPABLE OF HOUSING “IT.”

“IT” COULD ONLY EXIST AS DATA...

IN OTHER WORDS ...

...UNTIL AN APPROPRIATE "NURSERY" PRESENTED ITSELF ON THE PLANET.

LACKING THE MEANS TO EXIST ON EARTH, "IT" WENT INTO HIBERNATION IN AN ACT OF SELF-PRES-ERVATION...

...A DATA ARRAY.

...ARE CONSIDERED IMMATURE BY THE DATA OVERMIND.

HOWEVER, COMPUTER NETWORKS CREATED BY HUMANS...

AND THIS WAS THE RESULT.

..BAIO

A SEMI-CONSCIOUS STATE.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY AWAKEN APPEARED WITHIN THE DIGITAL DATA NETWORK.

UH...

SO COULD YOU EXPLAIN THAT IN LAYMAN'S TERMS?

KUKAA (SNORE)

THE TRIGGER WAS THE INVOCATION SIGN DRAWN BY SUZUMIYA.

MORE THAN ENOUGH VOLATILITY TO SERVE AS THEIR SUMMONING GATE.

BY TERRESTRIAL STANDARDS, THIS EMBLEM HOLDS THE EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY 436 TERABYTES OF DATA.

.....

SHE TRULY IS SUZUMIYA-SAN... SHE CAN EVEN BEAT ASTRO-NOMICAL ODDS.

A SYMBOL SHE DREW BY CHANCE HAPPENED TO CORRESPOND PERFECTLY.

HEH... WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

SO BASICALLY, ANYBODY WHO SAW THE SOS BRIGADE EMBLEM WOULD HAVE THEIR ROOM TURN INTO SOME WEIRD SPACE, RIGHT?

YES.

I STILL HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.

HEY... HOLD ON.

SO HOW COME THIS ROOM WAS MESSED UP?

NOTHING HAPPENED THEN.

I WAS THERE WHEN THE EMBLEM WAS FINISHED.

AH...

WE HADN'T EXPLAINED THAT YET?

THE CLUB ROOM WAS TRANSFORMED INTO *ALTERNATE SPACE* LONG AGO.

THERE ISN'T ANY ROOM FOR OTHER ELEMENTS WHEN IT'S IN A SATURATED STATE.

...LEAVING THE ROOM RELATIVELY NORMAL.

A VARIETY OF ELEMENTS AND FORCE FIELDS BATTLED AND NEGATED ONE ANOTHER...

...!

WHAT THE HELL?

SO THERE WAS ACTUALLY A POINT TO HARUHI'S NONSENSE!?

WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT SHE WOULD RECRUIT ALL THREE OF US BY CHANCE?

AN ALIEN, A TIME TRAVELER, AND AN ESPER...

IN FACT, THE SOS BRIGADE ITSELF IS NO EXCEPTION.

IT MEANS THAT IN HARUHI'S WORLD, PROBABILITY HOLDS NO WEIGHT.

ULTI-MATELY HER ACTIONS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT.

NOR IS THERE ANY NEED FOR HER TO UNDER-STAND.

GU (CLENCH)

SHE DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF ALL THESE RANDOM EVENTS.

SURE, YOU PEOPLE PROBABLY DON'T MIND...

...BUT AS I'VE REITERATED SO OFTEN IT'S GETTING ANNOYING, I'M A NORMAL HUMAN BEING, YOU KNOW?

...SELF-CENTERED AS ALWAYS.

.....

THE NEXT POINT IS WHAT REALLY SCARES ME, THOUGH...

THAT BEING THE CASE, WHY DID HARUHI RECRUIT ME TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOS BRIGADE AT ALL?

THIS.

WHO AM I...?

...IS THERE SOMETHING THAT CONCERNS YOU?

!

SCREEN: YOU ARE THE 307ST VISITOR

ご息
こちらま
あなたは
003071
のお客さんで

WH-

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?

IT WASN'T EVEN THREE FIGURES THE LAST TIME I CHECKED?

KATA (CLICK)

HYPERLINKS HAVE BEEN POSITIONED IN VARIOUS PLACES.

http://www.xxx/sosdan.xxx.x

THAT IS HOW THIS LIFE FORM MULTIPLIES.

KATA

VERY IMMATURE.

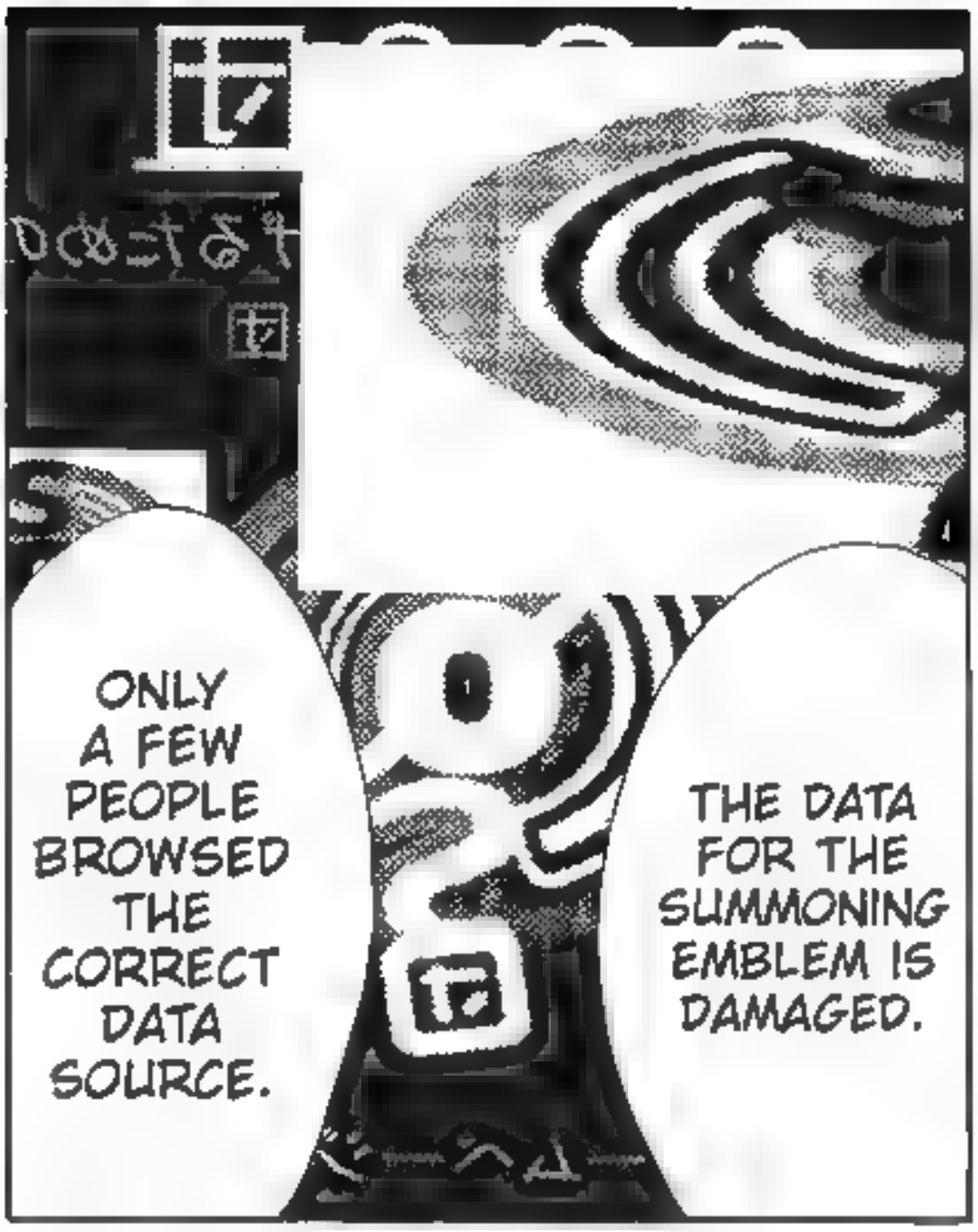
KATA

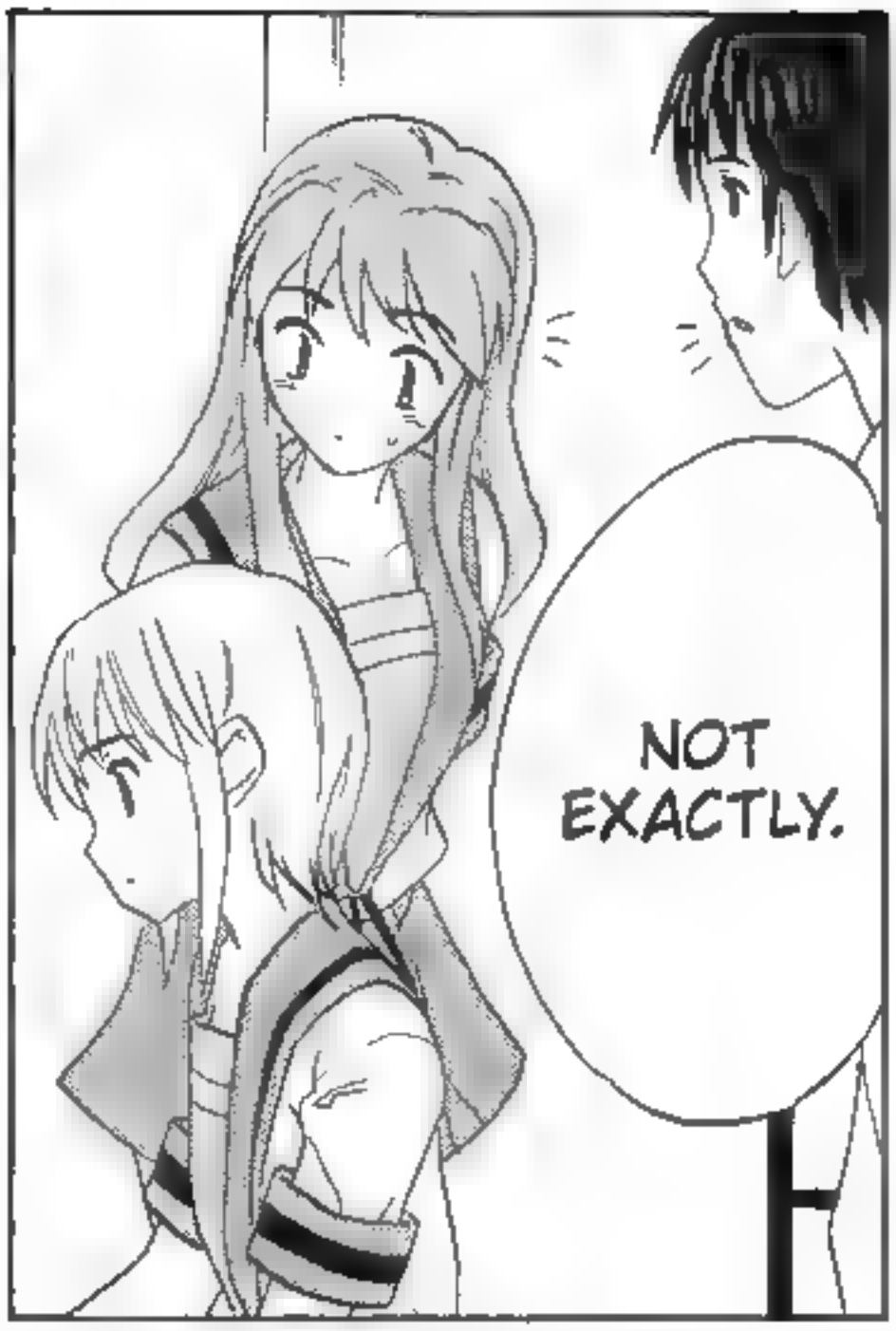
...WHICH MEANS...

...THREE THOUSAND OTHER PEOPLE ARE IN THE SAME STATE...?

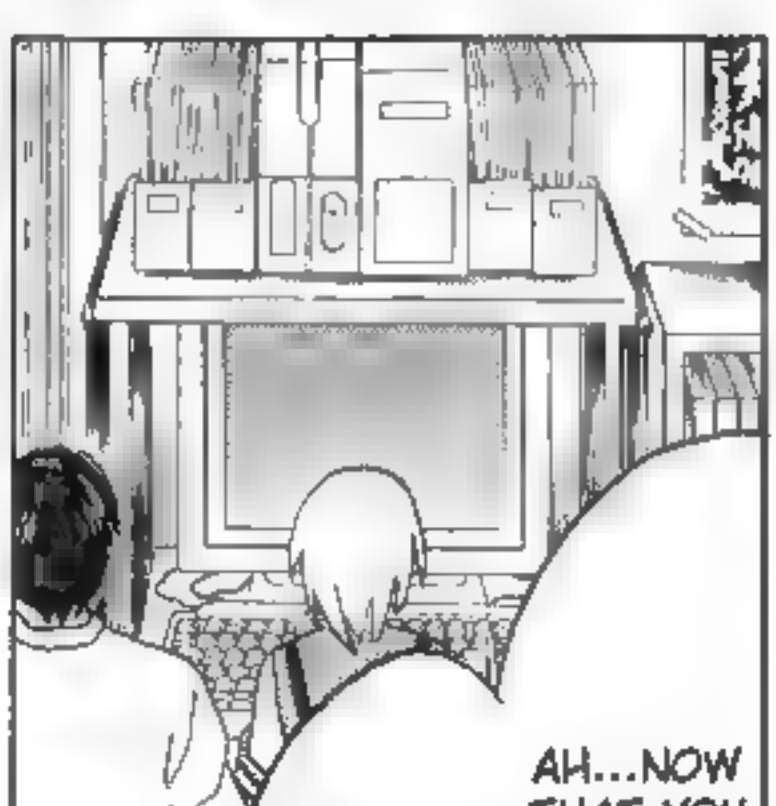
A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE REQUIRED.

ITS DATA IS COPIED INTO THE BRAINS OF THE HUMANS WHO SEE THE SYMBOLS, LEADING TO THE CREATION OF RESTRICTED SPACES.


ONLY A FEW PEOPLE BROWSED THE CORRECT DATA SOURCE.
THE DATA FOR THE SUMMONING EMBLEM IS DAMAGED.


NOT EXACTLY.

FIVE ARE STUDENTS AT NORTH HIGH.
EIGHT.


...SO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF IDIOTS WHO SAW THE REAL THING WAS...
AH...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT'S RIGHT.

YES... INDEED.

HAAH... I FEEL REALLY HUNGRY NOW.

I DIDN'T EXPECT THE INTERNET TO BECOME A BREEDING GROUND FOR EVIL PSEUDO-GODS.

U-UM... WELL ...

THE TERM "COMPUTER" IS INAP-PROPRIATE.

WATA (FLAP)

WATA

WATA

EH!?

...HOW ADVANCED ARE THE COMPUTERS IN THE FUTURE?

BY THE WAY, ASAHINA-SAN...

GUESS I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

IT IS SIMPLE TO CREATE A SYSTEM THAT DOES NOT RELY ON STORAGE MEDIA...

...EVEN FOR ORGANISMS SUCH AS TERRESTRIAL HUMANS.

...THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

REALLY?

THAT PRIMITIVE FORM OF DATA NETWORK SHOULD NO LONGER BE IN USE.

.....

THEIR ORIGIN WAS SIMILAR.

WHICH MEANS IT WAS A RELATIVE OF YOUR PATRON?

THAT CAVE CRICKET WAS "DATA," RIGHT?

THEN LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION AS ONE OF THOSE TERRESTRIAL HUMANS, NAGATO.

.....

EXCEPT THERE ENDED UP BEING A SURVI-VOR?

BUT THEY BRANCHED DOWN A DIFFERENT ...

...EVOLU-TIONARY PATH AND BECAME EXTINCT.

I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T YET.

...HAVE YOU ALREADY MADE PLANS FOR THE SUMMER?

WHAT A PAIN.

INCIDEN-TALLY, EVERYONE ...

AND- IT'S- SUM- MER- VACA- TION! ♪

SLEEP- A FEW- MORE- DAYS...

HEY!

CHART: MIKURU, NAGATO, KYON

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH...

BON (POOF) ぽん

DON'T FORGET THAT WE PROMISED TO GO TO GRAND-MA'S!

KYON-KUN, WHAT'S WITH THE GLOOMY FACE?

SUMMER VACATION'S ALMOST HERE!

...."DON'T CLICK ON LINKS YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE."

LET'S SEE... THE MORAL OF THIS WHOLE SPIEL WOULD BE...

JUST A LITTLE LONGER~ ♥

HEY! ♥

SHUT UP!

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO GO WITH, BUT WHO KNOWS...

I CORRECTED THE DATA.

OH... THANKS.

THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE PROBLEMS.

HMM...

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S THE ONE WHO MADE IT...

TALLY, HARUHI HASN'T NOTICED THE CHANGE.

KATA KATA KATA

NEW "ZOZ BRIGADE" SYMBOL

OLD "SOS BRIGADE" SYMBOL

...BUT ACCORDING TO NAGATO, THAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WEIRD STUFF SHOWING UP OR NOT.

THE DIFFERENCE IS EVER SO SLIGHT...

WELL... WHY, YOU ASK?

WE WENT INTO HER BOY-FRIEND'S HOME WITHOUT PERMISSION...

HUH? WHY?

AREN'T WE GOING TO GIVE KIMIDORI-SAN A REPORT AT LEAST?

HEY, HARUHI.

YEAH... YOU KNOW ...

THE PRESIDENT CAME BACK ANYWAY...

THERE ISN'T ANY NEED FOR IT.

AHA

MAYBE WE'LL GET ANOTHER ONE OF THESE?

PLUS WE'RE NEIGHBORS.

WELL, I WON'T STOP YOU FROM GOING.

THEY MIGHT GIVE YOU CAKE OR SOMETHING.

I'M THE ONE MOST KEENLY AWARE OF HIS OWN ROLE.

NOT THAT I'M ANY BETTER WHEN I'M RUNNING AROUND CLEANING UP AFTER HER...

SIGN: COMPUTER RESEARCH SOCIETY

コンピュータ研究会

GACHA (CLACK)

TO SUM IT UP, I SERVE AS THE SOS BRIGADE'S CONSCIENCE.

EXCUSE ME.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.

GE (GULP)

HONESTLY... SHE'S JUST UNBELIEV-ABLE.

WELL, IT STILL ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.

DOES KIMIDORI-SAN EVER COME HERE?

HUH?

YOU KNOW... YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.

BECAUSE IT'S A LOT EASIER TO CHANGE "HARUHI ON THE INSIDE" THAN TO CHANGE "THE WORLD."

WHO... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

?

THANKS.

HERE'S YOUR TEA!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

.....

NO... HE'S NOT THAT GOOD AN ACTOR ...

WAS THE WHOLE THING A CHARADE BY THE PRESI-DENT?

AND WE HAVEN'T IDENTIFIED THE PERSON WHO DAMAGED THE DANGEROUS EMBLEM FOR US...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT DIDN'T ADD UP.

OH, THAT'S A NICE BREEZE.

FASA (FLAP)

PERA (FLIP)

THIS IS JUST A THEORY...

DID SHE REALLY COME HERE TO ASK FOR OUR HELP?

...SAN.

THE INCIDENT AT THE FEAST-EVENT'S PLACE

MIZUKI'S SCRIBBLING...

THE TIMING WAS TOO PERFECT.

...OF THIS PERFECTLY SCRIPTED SCENARIO.

NAGATO WAS ALWAYS AT THE CENTER...

MAYBE IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO EASE SOME OF HARUHI'S BOREDOM...

IF THIS ALIEN HAD DONE SOMETHING TO KIMIDORI-SAN SO SHE WOULD BRING US THIS CASE, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED AT ALL.

...NAGATO BROUGHT US IN BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO?

OR PERHAPS ...

...SHE STILL FEELS LONELY WHEN SHE'S ALL BY HER-SELF...

Mystemoue Sign II : End

MYSTERIQUE SIGN RETURNS

THE DAYS ARE SO LONG IN SUMMER.

HAVE THE COPS SHOWED UP YET?

YEAH, THEY'RE OVER THERE ...

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?

KYON-KUN... WHAT'S GOING ON?

AS SOON AS SUMMER VACATION BEGAN...

...THIS LOOKS SERIOUS.

APPARENTLY, THERE WAS ONE MORE ITEM FOR ME TO TAKE CARE OF...BEFORE I COULD ENJOY A DISTRESS-FREE SUMMER VACATION.

MYSTERIQUE SIGN RETURNS

THE FOOD'S DONE.

SUMMER BREAK... MY SISTER AND I WENT TO VISIT OUR GRAND-PARENTS IN THE COUNTRY.

THERE WAS AN ISSUE I HAD TO DEAL WITH FIRST... NATURALLY, IT WAS RELATED TO THE CURRENT RUCKUS.

ORIGINALLY, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO RELAX, BUT I WASN'T SO FORTUNATE.

THEY SAID THAT GRANDMA DISAP-PEARED!

KYON-KUN, THIS IS BAD!!

IT'S FINE, GRAND-PA.

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO RUN INTO A BIG MESS...

SORRY ABOUT THIS...

...BUT I KEPT THAT THOUGHT TO MYSELF.

"YEAH, I KNOW."

WE'LL HAVE TO DO A BIT OF TRAVELING TO HELP THE REMAINING THREE.

EIGHT PEOPLE WERE TAKEN BY THE DATA LIFE FORM. FIVE WERE STUDENTS AT NORTH HIGH.

HEY... IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?

RIGHT THERE ON THE LIST OF VICTIMS WAS MY GRANDMA'S NAME.

HYAHI

DID YOU SEARCH THE SECOND BLOCK?

THIS WAS A VILLAGE DECISION... THERE'S NO POINT IN FUSSING ABOUT IT.

WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE, WE HOLD A GATHERING BEFORE WE CALL THE POLICE.

YEAH, IT'S THE CUSTOM HERE.

GRANDPA... A BUNCH OF NEIGHBORS HAVE COME BY...

...BUT WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE?

OH, YOU'VE GOTTEN BIG.

IT'S PROBABLY A LITTLE LATE TO SAY THIS NOW...BUT THIS PLACE IS WAY OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

AS IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!

THAT'S A BIT OVER-THE-TOP...

AND QUITE A FEW COULD BE CONSIDERED RELICS OF THE PAST.

YOU SHOULD EAT UP! ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL BE OUT IN FULL FORCE TO SEARCH TOMORROW.

WHICH IS WHY THEY STILL FOLLOW MANY CUSTOMS YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY FIND IN THIS DAY AND AGE.

WE'VE GOT A MISSING PERSON HERE.

GRANDPA IS A MEMBER OF THIS VILLAGE, SO HE STAYS FAITHFUL TO THOSE CUSTOMS.

CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT... IT'S LIKE SHE WAS SPIRITED AWAY.

CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

YEAH... CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

ZUI (SHOVE)

NOBODY'S PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO ME!

HEY, CUT IT OUT!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY.

AHHH! I'M SO BORED!

BESIDES, THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE SUMMER VACATION YET.

WHY DON'T YOU FIND OUT?

ARE CRAYFISH EDIBLE?

MY SISTER ASIDE...I FEEL REALLY BAD FOR GRANDPA BEING LEFT ALONE WITHOUT KNOWING THE REASON.

I NEED TO PULL OFF THE "TREATMENT" AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PYON (HOP)

YOU SHOULD ACT A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS ...

HUH?

BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

GRANDMA'S JUST PLAYING *HIDE-AND-SEEK.*

I JUST HAVE TO FIND HER.

WE ALWAYS START BY PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK... THAT'S THE PROMISE BETWEEN GRANDMA AND ME.

AND THEN?

SHE ALWAYS STARTS OFF SOMEWHERE OUT OF SIGHT.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS EVERY TIME WE COME HERE.

.....

THIS TIME, SHE HID HERSELF A FEW DAYS BEFOREHAND... AND CAUSED ALL THIS FUSS...

SHE'S TRYING REALLY HARD TO HIDE HERSELF THIS TIME!

BUT I USUALLY FIND HER IN NO TIME.

OR I'M NO LONGER *A GREAT DETECTIVE!*

I'LL FIND GRANDMA.

WHILE SHE MAY BE MY SISTER... I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER FUTURE WITH THAT HAPPY-GO-LUCKY PERSONALITY ...

WELL, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

.....

GRAND-PAAA!

HUH?

WELL, BASI-CALLY ...

(SHE REALLY REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE IN THESE SITUATIONS ...)

MY SISTER BEGAN HER PLAY-ACTING.

WHAT WERE THE CIRCUM-STANCES WHEN GRANDMA DISAP-PEARED?

WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE MORNING, SHE WAS GONE.

THAT WAS IT.

...SHE WAS HERE IN THE LIVING ROOM...

WHO ARE YOU CALLING WATSON?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MY DEAR WATSON?

.....

KOTO (THUNK)

...I FOUND THIS THING HERE.

AH? THAT'S BECAUSE ...

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT "THIS ROOM" IS WHERE SHE DISAPPEARED?

S-SAY ...

THIS CAN'T EVEN BE CONSIDERED A PRETENSE OF BEING A DETECTIVE.

SHE ALWAYS CARRIES IT ON HER... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S THINKING.

...SHE'S BEEN HOOKED ON THIS THING REALLY.

A CELL PHONE?

.....

I'M OLD-FASHIONED, SO I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS.

YOU CAN TAKE IT AS A MEMENTO.

WOW... THIS IS NEWER THAN MINE.

WATSON! A VALUABLE PIECE OF EVIDENCE HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND!

GU (GRIP)

HOLD ON, GRANDPA.

BASICALLY, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED.

...I'M FINALLY STARTING TO CONNECT THE DOTS.

BASED ON WHAT I'VE HEARD... THAT WOULD BE A SAFE ASSUMPTION.

SO WE NEED TO BEGIN "TREAT-MENT" NOW.

GRANDMA SAW THE SYMBOL ON THE INTERNET THROUGH HER CELL PHONE.

AND THEN SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THAT WEIRD SPACE...

DO YOU HAVE THE ITEM WITH YOU?

JI (UNZIP)

YEAH.

I DIDN'T WANT TO USE IT AT A RELATIVE'S PLACE THOUGH...

THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE AS OUTLINED BEFORE.

A CORRECTIVE DEVICE WHICH INCREASES YOUR FIELD OF SIGHT WILL RENDER THEM VISIBLE.

SO THAT'S WHAT THE GLASSES ARE FOR?

IT CANNOT BE SEEN BECAUSE THE PHASE HAS SLIPPED OFF.

THE DATA LIFE FORM MUST EXIST AT THE SAME COORDI-NATES.

BUT WHAT DO I DO AFTER I CAN SEE IT?

I PRETTY MUCH GET THAT PART.

DON'T TELL ME THESE ARE HER OLD GLASSES...

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

...SO.

SHE MUST HAVE HAPPENED UPON THE SITE WHILE SEARCHING FOR HER GRANDSON'S HIGH SCHOOL.

INDEED, I AM QUITE IMPRESSED.

.....

Still, to think that she accessed the Internet with her cell phone ...

KAA ~

Your grandmother is quite adept at adapting to the times.

KAA (CAW)

YEAH, THAT'S JUST HOW SHE IS.

SHE WAS A CRAFTY BRIDE.

I PROBABLY GOT THAT FROM MY OLD-FASHIONED GRANDPA.

...THAT'S RIGHT. I HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED TO TAKE PICTURES ON MY CELL PHONE.

PERSONALLY, I FIND MACHINES TO BE A PAIN.

GOOD GRIEF.

I SUPPOSE I COULD TAKE A FEW PICTURES OF THE SOS BRIGADE.

I SHOULD SHOW THEM HOW THEIR GRANDSON'S DOING IN HIGH SCHOOL...

I PRAY THAT YOU'RE SUCCESS-FUL.

PICTURES OF THE
カチッ
OKAY... PRETTY SURE EVERYONE'S ASLEEP BY NOW.
ガラッ
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO DO THIS... BUT LET'S GET STARTED.

MANIFESTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S
MAKES THE WALK FROM THE BEDROOM TO THE LIVING ROOM FEEL REALLY FAR.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S IDEAL FOR THIS PLAN.

SIGN: SOS BRIGADE

I WILL EXPLAIN THE PROCEDURE USED FOR "TREATMENT."

AS WITH THE PREVIOUS INCIDENT, YOU SHOULD RECEIVE SOME FORM OF VISUAL DATA WHICH WILL ALLOW YOU INSIDE.

ONCE THE LIFE FORM HAS NOTICED YOU, IT WILL ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE YOUR BRAIN.

THERE ARE TWO CRITERIA WHICH MUST BE MET.

...I FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING INVOLVED IN SOMETHING REALLY HORRIBLE ...

THAT IS OUR OPENING ...

AND YOU MUST MAKE SURE THAT YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE THE ENEMY.

YOUR SURROUNDINGS MUST BE DARK.

NOT A VERY DIFFICULT TASK.

MAKE SURE IT PASSES THROUGH THE BOOBY TRAP IN THOSE GLASSES.

A WELL-LIT LOCATION WOULD PROVIDE TOO MANY INFIL-TRATION ROUTES INTO YOUR EYES.

INVISIBLE

VISIBLE

HUMAN SIGHT IS MERELY A COMBI-NATION OF LIGHT.

VARIOUS REFLECTED LIGHT THAT ISN'T DIRECTLY VISIBLE TO THE EYE IS STILL RECEIVED

GISHI (CREAK)

.....

IT'S PROBABLY EASY BY NAGATO'S STANDARDS ...

IF SOMETHING CRAZY POPS OUT...WILL I BE ABLE TO LOOK DIRECTLY AT IT?

GISHI

SU (SLIDE)

OKAY... LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT TO THE LIVING ROOM.

WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING TO SHOW UP...

I NEED TO BE READY TO DEAL WITH GRANDMA'S TRAUMA.

GUKU (GULP)

TU CULO

BAH, THE HELL WITH IT!

DON (BAM)

PI (BEEP)

.....

WHAT WAS THAT ...?

SHIN (SILENCE)

GATA (STUMBLE)

WHOA!?

WHAT IS IT?

...but I saw Haruhi ...?

Well...I followed your instruc-tions...

YOU'RE STILL AWAKE, NAGATO?

.....

CHA (CLICK)

.....

Unneeded data will be picked up if there is dust on the lenses.

THEY MERELY MAKE SURROUND-ING DATA VISIBLE.

THOSE GLASSES DO NOT INCREASE THE RESOLUTION OF HUMAN VISION.

Wipe the lenses.

...OKAY.

CHA CLACK

GOSH (RUB)

GOSH

...I GET IT.

SO SOME DUST FROM THE CLUB ROOM GOT ON HERE, HUH?

THAT WAS KINDA LIKE PSY-CHOMETRY, HUH?

...-SAN IS THE OLDEST SON'S BRIDE...

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

HEY NOW... AREN'T THERE A WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM!?

ME!?

THE OTHER PEOPLE ARE ALL THE VILLAGERS!?

ハッ!!

GATAN (SLAM)

!

THEY SHOULD MAKE A MOVE SOON.

BI (BEEP)

SHE SAID TO MAKE SURE I GOT A CLEAR LOOK, BUT THIS IS QUITE A SURPRISE.

WHAT ARE THEY ALL SAYING!?

GRANDMA!

!!

MY SISTER'S VOICE!?

GARA (RATTLE)

SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS! THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!

GISHI (CREAK)

I'M ON MY WAY OVER~~!

GISHI

SHE COULD HEAR ME FROM THE BED-ROOM!?

...ONCE EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP... SINCE YOU GOT HUNGRY!

IDIOT, THAT'S NOT IT! DON'T COME IN HERE!

GASHA (RATTLE)

YOU HID DURING THE DAY AND CAME BACK TO THE LIVING ROOM AT NIGHT FOR SOMETHING TO EAT...

!!

KARARARA (SLIIDE)

WHERE'S THE LIGHT SWITCH AGAIN?

KYON-KUN'S HERE TOO? WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING IN THE DARK...?

TH-THIS IS BAD!

GIN (GLARE)

SHAN (DRAW)

IT'S COMING.

GAH!? THIS GUY...

HIS EYES CHANGED THE SECOND HE HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT LIGHT!?

DON
(BOOM)

WHOO OOOO OOA!?

Don't look away.

E-EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.

If you look away, you won't be seeing through your glasses.

!!

O

X

If that happens, everything will fail...

KA (FLASH)

10

PAKIN (SNAP)

AHA!

I FOUND GRANDMA!

THAT'S ONE HECK OF A FALSE ALARM.

WHAT'S THAT? SHE WAS JUST PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK!?

SOMEHOW, IT WAS OVER, I GUESS.

AND YOU GUYS USED THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO DO SOME DRINKING.

OOH, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BRING THAT UP.

PEKO (BOW) PEKO

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THIS UP TO EVERY-BODY...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MENTION IT.

?
?
WELL, WITH A GREAT DETECTIVE ON THE JOB.
What about the glasses?
WELL...I MANAGED TO PULL IT OFF.
YOU DID A GREAT JOB OF HIDING THIS TIME!
A SPECIMEN OF THE UNFORTUNATE, IMPRISONED LIFE FORM, HUH...?
SO THIS WAS THE "BOOBY TRAP."
Huh?
THE LIFE FORM WAS MOST LIKELY INCOMPLETE.
YEAH... THEY'RE FINE.

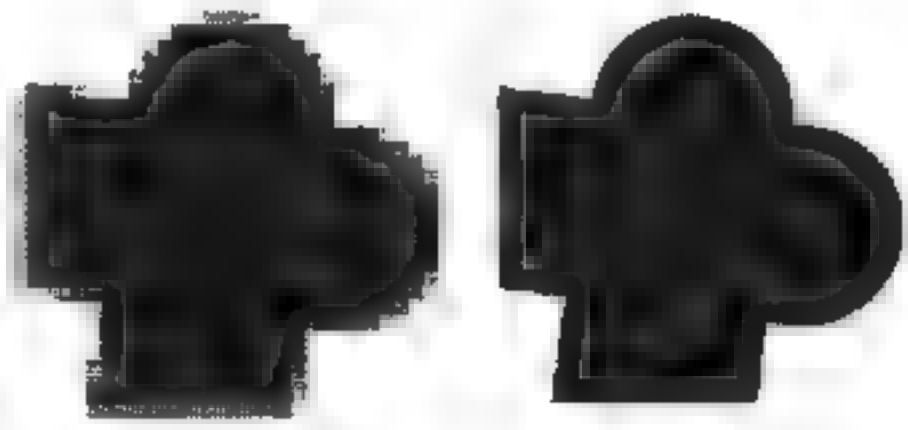
Specifically, it was afraid of entering another life form through the diffusion of light.

It was necessary to enter you.

For this to make sense, you must assume that "it" was afraid of light.

IT INTENDED TO UTILIZE THAT METHOD TO AMEND THE LOSS OF RESOLUTION IN DATA.

IT NEEDED AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD SEEN A MORE COMPLETE VERSION... WHICH MEANT IT NEEDED TO ENTER YOU.



LOW RESOLUTION

HIGH RESOLUTION

In other words, once "it" had possessed the victim, it diminished itself.

The browsing capabilities on a cell phone are at a lower resolution than on a computer.

That yielded an oppor-tunity.

CUTTING IT CLOSE AS USUAL... BUT WE MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH.

YEAH... THANKS, GRANDMA.

I FORGET WHETHER OR NOT YOU LIKE SWEETS.

PATAN (SHUT)

THOSE GATHERINGS ARE REALLY UNUSUAL IN THIS DAY AND AGE.

PLUS, THE VILLAGERS ALL LEFT.

ENJOY YOURSELVES.

I'M NOT TOO GOOD WITH THAT STUFF.

JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME...THE WHOLE HELPING EACH OTHER THING...?

BUT THERE'S ONE MORE THING I'M CONCERNED ABOUT...

WHAT WAS THAT DOPPELGANGER I SAW?

ガタン
GATAN
(KERCHUNK)

GRANDPA, A MAN OF THIS VILLAGE THROUGH AND THROUGH...

...AND GRANDMA CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE TO MARRY HIM.

ガタン
GATAN

あっはっは
AHA HA

WHEN I DIE, USE THIS TO CALL A FUNERAL HOME.

THAT'LL LEAVE ME WITH LESS TO WORRY ABOUT.

THEY'RE SO OLD-FASHIONED... THESE DAYS, FAMILY GATHERINGS ARE EVEN ARRANGED BY PROFESSIONALS.

WHEN WE GOT MARRIED, I WAS PRETTY DEPRESSED ABOUT HOW I HAD TO WORRY ABOUT THIS STUFF...

HONESTLY, SHE'S SO..

.....

レロレロレロ
PURURURU (BZZZ)

HM?

THE VILLAGE, ITS SOCIETY, AND...?

レ～～～
KUUU (SNORE)

I NEVER CONSIDERED HOW GRANDMA FELT WHEN SHE GOT MARRIED...

...A PICTURE OF ME?

ピ (BEEP)

WHAT... GRANDMA SENT ME A PICTURE?

.....

OH... THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.

THIS IS A PICTURE OF GRANDPA WHEN HE WAS YOUNG. HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU. (^0^)/~
(IT'S MY WALLPAPER.)

ANYWAY, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY DON'T GET ALONG... BULLY FOR THEM.

GATAN

GATAN (KERCHUNK)

SO IN THE END, IT WAS A METAPHOR FOR THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY, HUH...?

GATAN

I'LL TAKE SOME PICTURES OF THE SOS BRIGADE NEXT TIME.

THEY SHOULD AT LEAST MAKE A BETTER IMPRES-SION.

Grandpa sure was handsome.

- Your grandson

Send

KACHI (CLICK)

MYSTERIQUE SIGN RETURNS : END

REMOTE ISLAND SYNDROME I

WOW!

ARE THERE ANY PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO WOULD ENVY A SUMMER VACATION LIKE THIS?

WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE WEIRD IF THERE WERE.

...AT LEAST, IF SHE WEREN'T HERE...

PERFECT.

A PERFECT START TO SUMMER VACATION.

A REMOTE ISLAND AND A MYSTERIOUS MANSION.

YOU COULDN'T FIND A BETTER LOCATION FOR THE SOS BRIGADE'S OVERNIGHT TRIP!

...LET'S GO BACK TO MID-JULY.

OFF WE GO!!

A CLUB TRIP...?

NATURALLY, EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATING!

YEP, A FIELD TRIP!

GATA GATTERO

KOIZUMI-KUN?

YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN HAVE A PLAN IN MIND.

WHAT THE HELL?

DOPPAN (KABOOM)

WHEN YOU THINK OF SUMMER VACATION, YOU THINK OF THE BEACH! WHEN YOU THINK OF THE BEACH, YOU THINK OF OVER-NIGHT TRIPS!

WHY IS KOIZUMI—

...HUH?

FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT, I'M NAMING HIM THE SOS BRIGADE'S DEPUTY BRIGADE CHIEF!

KOIZUMI-KUN IS PROVIDING US WITH A PLACE TO STAY DURING THIS TRIP!

は"

副団長

ん

BAN (BAM)

NOT TO WORRY.

IF IT'S MERELY THE MEMBERS OF THE SOS BRIGADE, WE ARE PREPARED TO HOST.

ARMBAND: DEPUTY BRIGADE CHIEF

WAIT.

WAIT.

WAAAIT!!

BI (POINT)

...AND SO, WE'LL BE STAYING THREE DAYS AND TWO NIGHTS!

EVERYBODY CLEAR YOUR SCHEDULES.

HEE HEE...

IT IS AN HONOR.

DO (RUMBLE)

DO

ONE OF MY DISTANT RELATIVES HAPPENS TO BE QUITE WEALTHY.

HE BOUGHT A DESERTED ISLAND AND BUILT A VILLA THERE.

DO

DO

DO

DO

DO

THE MANOR WAS JUST COMPLETED A FEW DAYS AGO... BUT IT'S SO FAR AWAY THAT NOBODY COULD MAKE IT.

THAT MEANS IT'S MY TURN.

WHOO! THIS FEELS GOOD!

I CAN'T WAIT!

FROM THERE, WE WILL BE TAKING A PRIVATE CRUISER.

I HAVE ARRANGED FOR AN ACQUAINTANCE TO MEET US AT THE PORT...

THE TRIP BY FERRY TAKES APPROXIMATELY SIX HOURS.

...STILL

THAT SOUNDS DANGEROUS...

BUT WE'LL SAVE THE MOUNTAINS FOR WINTER.

YOU CAN ONLY GET TRAPPED BY A BLIZZARD IN A MOUNTAIN RETREAT DURING WINTER.

I WAS DEBATING WHETHER TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS OR THE BEACH.

THE BEACH IS NICE THIS TIME OF YEAR.

I SUPPOSE I'LL TRY TO ENJOY IT FOR NOW.

WE'LL BE TAKING A CRUISER THE REST OF THE WAY.

THAT WAS A PRETTY LONG TRIP.

HEY, IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME.

...HUH?

I AM THE MAID, SONOU MORI.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

I AM THE BUTLER, ARAKAWA.

WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

SUSU (WHOOSH)

フェリーターミナル

SIGN: FERRY TERMINAL

A BUTLER AND MAID?

.....

U-UM, IS THIS ...

DO DO DO DO DO

I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE THE INCON-VENIENCE OF BEING LOCATED ON A REMOTE ISLAND...

I HAVE PREPARED A BOAT OVER HERE.

POKAN (STUNNED)

NOW THEN, EVERY-ONE.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, THIS IS A PERFECT SETUP.

WE HAVE A "REMOTE ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN" AND A "MANSION," AFTER ALL.

IT'S TOTALLY NOT A PROB-LEM!

COME ON...YOU SHOULDN'T CALL PEOPLE SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING WHEN YOU'RE MEETING THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

GO!

THEN PLEASE COME THIS WAY.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE SCENARIO I WAS LOOKING FOR!

YOU'D HAVE TO EXPECT A *SUSPICIOUS LOOKING BUTLER AND MAID,* RIGHT?

W-WOW... THIS IS AMAZING.

KO (CLACK)

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DON'T PLAY DUMB.

KO

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE PLOTTING?

KO

SHE WOULD HAVE COME UP WITH A PLAN BY HERSELF IF I HAD DONE NOTHING...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SPECIAL.

KO

WHY ARE YOU PART OF THIS?

YOU EVEN OFFERED A PLACE TO STAY...

AT THE VERY LEAST, THIS IS BETTER THAN HUNTING FOR TSUCHINOKO, RIGHT?

AND I HAPPENED TO HAVE THE CONNECTIONS ...

I WAS MERELY TRYING TO PLEASE THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE POSSIBLE.

NOBODY CAN ESCAPE... NOTHING FROM THE OUTSIDE CAN INTERVENE.

WHAT IF "SOMETHING" WERE TO HAPPEN HERE...?

A MANSION ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND WITH NO CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

...IN MYSTERY TERMS, THIS SITUATION WOULD BE CALLED A "CLOSED CIRCLE."

YOU COULD CALL IT A SORT OF FANTASY IMMERSED IN FICTION.

THAT IS, IN FACT, THE GOAL HERE... IN OTHER WORDS...

...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

"TO GET CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING OUT OF A MYSTERY."

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTS OUT OF THIS TRIP.

BUT I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK, YES?

I MERELY TRACED HER MINDSET.

STUPID... SHE'S STILL THINKING LIKE THAT...

HEH HEH.

JUST THINKING THAT YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF.

NO-THING ..

.....

AND THEN ONE OF THOSE HUH ?

WHAT'S WRONG?

HAA (SIGH)

DO

DO

YES...

...BECAUSE I ALSO HAPPEN TO ENJOY SCENARIOS LIKE THIS.

DO (CRASH)

DO

BUT I'VE LEARNED SOME-THING AS A RESULT.

...WHAT'S MAKING THIS BOAT FLOAT?

LAST TIME, MY SISTER WAS PLAYING DETECTIVE. WHY AM I SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE LIKE THIS?

DO

DO

DO

DO

!

THE ISLAND IS WITHIN SIGHT.

AH!

THAT'S RIGHT. THAT MAKES SENSE ...

BUOY-ANCY...I GUESS?

PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT GREAT DETECTIVES AND THE LIKE ARE THE ANNOYING SORT THAT WANT BAD STUFF TO HAPPEN.

THIS IS TERRIFIC!

WOW ...

DO (SPLASH)
DO
DO
PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.
ARE WE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE...?
THE LACK OF EMOTION ON NAGATO'S FACE FELT VERY REASSURING... PATHETIC, HUH...
ﾌﾅ ﾌﾅ ﾌﾅ (HOOONK)
HEY, ITSUKI-KUN!
AMAZING... THIS REALLY IS A REMOTE ISLAND.

I MET HIM ONCE BEFORE.

NO...THAT PERSON WOULD BE THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF THE MANSION'S MASTER.

WAVING BACK BY REFLEX

...IS THAT PERSON THE MASTER OF THE MANSION?

SFX: BUN (SWING) BUN

TELL US SOONER!

SO THERE ARE OTHER GUESTS?

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YUTAKA TAMARU-SAN.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MEET US.

HEY, ITSUKI-KUN. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

WHA...?

SHE ALWAYS ACTS VERY OPENLY AND NATURALLY, SOMETHING I WOULD LOVE TO LEARN TO DO.

YUTAKA-SAN... THIS LOVELY YOUNG LADY IS HARUHI SUZUMIYA-SAN.

HE ALWAYS SERVES AS A RELIABLE DEPUTY BRIGADE—I MEAN, ***VICE PRESIDENT.***

N-NOT GOOD.

KOIZUMI-KUN IS AN INVALUABLE MEMBER OF MY BRIGADE—I MEAN, ***STUDENT ASSOCIATION.***

...WHAT KIND OF INTRODUCTION IS THAT? SERIOUSLY...

THANK YOU FOR THE INTRODUCTION. I'M HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

TIME TO SKIP THROUGH THIS PART...

THE LOVELY AND BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL IDOL...

THIS IS MIKURU ASAHINA-SAN.

I'M GETTING CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE.

THE "MANSION" IS OVER THERE.

HUUH ...

WOW...

NO, I THINK IT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ATMO-SPHERE!

HEY, EVERYONE. WELCOME!

GI (CREAK)

IT SEEMS LIKE THE ARCHITECT WENT BY THE BOOK.

IT LOOKS SURPRISINGLY NORMAL FOR SOMETHING ON A REMOTE ISLAND... DON'T YOU FIND THAT A WASTE?

THIS ISN'T QUITE WHAT I WAS EXPECTING ...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, KEIICHI-SAN.

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU ITSUKI-KUN

COME, EVERY-ONE. STEP INSIDE.

WE...L. WELL WELL HELLO THERE, EVERYONE NICE TO MEET YOU ALL

I'M THE MASTER OF THIS MANSION, KEIICHI TAMARU.

WELL, WELL...YOU HAVE SOME LOVELY FRIENDS.

...THAT GIVES US A BUTLER, A MAID, THE MASTER OF THE MANSION, AND HIS BROTHER.

LET'S SEE... IS THAT EVERYBODY THAT'S GOING TO SHOW UP?

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE HERE, I OFFER OUR THANKS...

I TRULY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAY IN SUCH A WONDERFUL MANSION.

THERE SHE GOES AGAIN ...

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR INVITATION TODAY.

BU (CHOKE)

I SEE.

EH?

YES... THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HIM.

I SEE... I'D HEARD THAT YOU WERE SORT OF A FRANK GIRL.

...ARE YOU SUZUMIYA-SAN?

HA-HA-HA... NOTHING LIKE THAT YET...

ANYWAY ...

IN THAT CASE, ARE THERE ANY OMINOUS LEGENDS ABOUT IT?

ZUI (ZIP)

MOVING RIGHT ALONG, HAVE THERE BEEN ANY STRANGE INCIDENTS IN THIS MANSION?

NICE TO MEET YA, BIG GUY!

THOUGH IT'S MORE LIKE A VILLA THAN A MANSION.

I'LL JUST IGNORE HARUHI AND GIVE A SIMPLE RUNDOWN OF THE MANSION.

THE TAMARU BROTHERS ARE IN THE GUEST ROOMS ON THE THIRD FLOOR... ARAKAWA-SAN AND MORI-SAN ARE STAYING IN SMALLER ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR.

FIRST FLOOR

ARAKAWA

SONOU MORI

SECOND FLOOR: SOS BRIGADE

KEIICHI TAMARU

YUTAKA TAMARU

THIRD FLOOR

WE'RE ALL STAYING ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

YES.

THE DOORS DON'T LOCK AUTOMATICALLY, BUT I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DIDN'T LOSE THE KEY.

YES... INCIDENTALLY, I'VE LEFT THE KEY TO EACH ROOM ON THE SIDEBOARD INSIDE.

SO EACH PERSON GETS HIS OR HER OWN ROOM.

AND YOU CAN GIVE EACH ROOM A NAME LIKE "THE CURSED ROOM" AND SUCH.

YES... HOW DOES THE HOUSE OF TRAGEDY SOUND?

WE'RE OPEN TO ANY GOOD IDEAS.

IT WAS JUST COMPLETED, SO WE HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF ONE YET.

BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS MANSION?

JUST STOP ALREADY

WE'LL MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN...I MEAN, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SOMETHING ***MAY HAPPEN*** IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE PROBLEM WOULD BE THAT NOTHING'S HAPPENED HERE THAT WOULD SUIT THE NAME.

HA-HA-HA... THAT'S A GOOD ONE.

はは HA
っHA っHA

THAT COULD VERY WELL BE THE CASE.

FUU (SIGH)

MEET UP IN THE LOBBY ONCE YOU'VE CHANGED INTO YOUR SWIMSUITS!

THAT'S THE ONE THING YOU HAVE TO DO WHEN YOU GO TO THE BEACH!

OKAY, LET'S START WITH A SWIM!

GOOD GRIEF... HARUHI'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS, BUT I STILL FEEL PRETTY RELIEVED.

THE MANSION ON A REMOTE ISLAND ENDED UP JUST BEING A PEACEFUL VILLA.

BY THE WAY ...

THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE A BETTER TRIP THAN I EXPECTED ...

THE CULPRIT OF THE *HUGE CASE* THAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

YOU CAN TELL FROM HIS EYES THAT HE'S PLOTTING SOMETHING.

.....

WHAT CULPRIT?

THE CULPRIT IS THE MASTER OF THIS PLACE!

I'VE FIGURED IT OUT!

... WELL, THEN.

WHY DON'T WE GO GET CHANGED?

.....

BATAN (SLAM)

I'M SURE WE'LL GET INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF *SURPRISING* AFFAIR.

I GUESS THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM ACQUAINTANCES OF KOIZUMI...

THE BUTLER, THE MAID, AND THE TAMARU BROTHERS ALL SEEM LIKE NICE PEOPLE.

THAT'S JUST STUPID...

KA
(SHINE)

OKAY, LET'S GOOO!!

BAN
(BAM)

ZABAAN
(SPLASH)

AAAAAAAW

BA
(FWAP)

M-MY SKIN GETS SUNBURNED REALLY EASILY...

GET RID OF THAT!

PERA (FLIP)

WAH, IT'S SALTY.

BA BA BA BA (SPLASH) BA BA

KYA HA HA HA HA HA!

.....

EVERY-BODY HAS HIS OWN NOTION OF FUN.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH AN OVERNIGHT TRIP...?

THIS IS HOW A HIGH SCHOOLER'S WORLD SHOULD BE.

YOU CAN PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE... THIS HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE "AGENCY" AT ALL.

IF NOT, THERE'D BE NO POINT IN ME PREPARING THE ENTER-TAINMENT.

THE SWIMSUITS HAD BEEN CHOSEN BY HARUHI...

WELL... I CAN'T DENY THAT...

...THIS ISN'T TOO SHABBY... YEAH.

HEEEY! KYON! KOIZUMI-KUN!

YOU GUYS GET OVER HERE TOOOO!

ZABAAN (SPLASH)

AND BEFORE LONG, IT WAS TIME FOR DINNER.

DON (BAM)

WHO MADE THIS?

...WOW.

I TAKE IT BACK. THIS IS INCREDIBLE.

THE BUTLER, ARAKAWA, ALSO SERVES AS THE CHEF.

IMPRES-SIVE, ISN'T IT?

THIS IS REALLY GOOD!

WOW... I'M IM-PRESSED.

THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD!

IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO EAT AND STAY HERE FOR FREE WHEN IT'S THIS GOOD?

MAKU MAKU MAKU MAKU まく まく まく まく MAKU (CHOMP)

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?

はっはっはっ HA HA HA

JUST THINK OF IT AS A WAY OF SHOWING MY APPRE-CIATION FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

IT'S PERFECTLY FINE.

PLEASE CONVEY MY COMPLI-MENTS TO THE CHEF.

IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

ヒュウ

HYUUUU (WHOOO)

CHEERS!

IT APPEARS THAT THE WIND IS PICKING UP.

OH?

EVERY-THING'S WORTH A TRY.

HUH...? IS THIS WINE?

I HAVE A FEELING THAT...

...THIS WAS WHEN THE NIGHTMARE BEGAN.

IN THANKS, I'LL LEAVE MIKURU-CHAN HERE!

MAN, YOU'RE THE BEST!

YOU CAAAN'T ...

GOOOOO (RUMMMBLE)

ゴォォォ

UUUGH... DON'T WANNA ~~

DO SOME SERIOUS MAID TRAINING!

...MY MEMORY BECAME HAZY.

OOH-WHEE!

...AND THIS WAS ABOUT WHEN...

TAN (SLAM)

CAN YOU REALLY HANDLE ALL THAT?

GOKU (GULP)

GOKU

KUI (LIFT)

KUI

I HEARD ABOUT THIS FROM KOIZUMI AFTERWARDS.

IT APPEARS THAT I, ALONG WITH HARUHI, HAD ENGAGED IN SOME SORT OF DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOR.

IN ANY CASE, I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF EVER RETURNING TO MY ROOM.

WELL, I'LL JUST PRETEND I NEVER HEARD HIM TELL ME THAT.

NATURALLY, I DON'T REMEMBER HOW LOUDLY THE RAIN WAS COMING DOWN EITHER.

I DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING.

DON

DON

UGH
...

DON
(SLAM)

GOOO
(ROOOAR)

ZUKI
(THROB)

URK!

YEAH,
YEAH...
I'M
COMING
...

DON

DON

HURRY IT UP! IT'S TIME FOR BREAK-FAST.

GACHA
(CLICK)

SO THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A HANG-OVER
...

THIS STORM'S REALLY BAD...

ZAAAAAAAA CWSHHHHHHHD

YEAH ...

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER

MAN YOU'RE PERFECTLY FINE?

STILL... WE REALLY ENDED UP ON "A REMOTE ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM," HUH?

IT HAPPENS. CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

THE FORECAST SAID THAT IT'D BE SUNNY TODAY.

EVERY-ONE.

IT CAN'T BE...

HAVE WE BEEN INVOL-UNTARILY LOCKED UP BECAUSE OF HARUHI'S WILL?

ZAAAA (WSHHH)

"A CLOSED CIRCLE."

...WHAT IS IT?

...IS THERE SOME-THING WRONG?

...YES.

SOMETHING THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED A PROBLEM MAY HAVE HAPPENED.

TA (DASH)

THE ROOM WASN'T LOCKED, SO I WENT INSIDE...

...BUT YUTAKA-SAMA WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

TSUKA

TSUKA (STRIDE)

TSUKA

WHAT'S THAT?

AND THEN I TRIED TO REACH THE MASTER OVER THE INTERCOM.

SO YUTAKA-SAN IS MISSING AND KEIICHI-SAN ISN'T RESPOND-ING...

HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO RESPONSE.

THERE ISN'T.

THERE ARE SPARE KEYS FOR THE OTHER ROOMS...BUT THIS ROOM DOESN'T, AS A PRECAUTION.

ISN'T THERE AN EXTRA KEY TO THIS ROOM?

KEI-ICHI-SAN!

DON (SLAM)

KEI-ICHI-SAN!

DON

WE'LL HAVE TO USE FORCE ...

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY?

KOKUN (NOD)

.....

READY, AND...

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

DOON (BOOM)

...

...WHAT IS THIS?

KYON... COULD HE BE...

…DEAD…?

…WAS EXTRAORDINARILY SERIOUS.

THE LOOK ON HARUHI'S FACE…

REMOTE ISLAND SYNDROME 1 : END

ALL PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED!!

MMM...

.....

THE TRUTH WAS STILL INVISIBLE, BUT THE CAUSE...

COULD HE BE...

...DEAD?

I WAS SO DUMB-FOUNDED I FORGOT ABOUT THE PAIN IN MY SHOULDER.

WHAT "COULDN'T POSSIBLY EVER HAPPEN" HAD HAPPENED.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS EVEN A SLIM POS-SIBILITY...?

ASAHINA-SAN!

AAHHH...

DOSA (THUD)

KEIICHI TAMARU.

THE PERSON LYING ON THE FLOOR WAS UNDENIABLY THE OWNER OF THIS MANSION.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER...

WHAT'S GOING ON...?

...IT APPEARS THAT WE'RE IN QUITE A PREDICA-MENT.

...WERE YOU THE ONE WHO MADE THIS HAPPEN?

HEY, HARUHI ...

KA (FLASH)

THE CULPRIT MUST BE FAIRLY STRONG ...?

THE KNIFE IS STICKING THROUGH THE NOTE-PAD...

THIS IS...A NOTEPAD?

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU...

OH?

YUKI, YOU TAKE THAT SIDE.

WE'LL CARRY MIKURU-CHAN.

...YEAH.

IN ANY CASE, OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO STABI-LIZE THE CURRENT SITUA-TION.

FOR NOW, LET'S LEAVE THIS ROOM.

...AN AWFULLY SENSIBLE REACTION.

...WELL, THEN.

AND THIS IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS A *LOCKED ROOM MURDER.*

SAAAAAA (WSHHH)

I CAN SEE THAT.

THIS SITUATION IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL... A CLOSED CIRCLE.

THIS TURN OF EVENTS REQUIRES SOME THOUGHT.

ANY-WAY, I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM!

...THIS ISN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD.

UUUN (GROAN)

UUUN

WEREN'T YOU TALKING ABOUT HOW BADLY YOU WANTED SOMETHING TO HAPPEN?

I NEVER EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN...

COME ON, KYON. LET'S GO.

I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND WAITING.

YUKI, LOCK THE DOOR AND DON'T OPEN IT FOR ANYONE.

THAT'S BECAUSE I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYTHING TO ACTUALLY HAPPEN!

I WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO ALLOW ANYONE INSIDE BEFORE THEN.

IT DEPENDS ON WHEN THE STORM PASSES.

...SO, WHEN WILL THE POLICE GET HERE?

DID KEIICHI-SAN AND YUTAKA-SAN NOT GET ALONG?

...SAY, I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS.

EH?

SO YOU'RE TEMPS ...!?

...TO BE HONEST, I DO NOT KNOW.

MORI AND I HAVE ONLY BEEN WORKING HERE FOR THE PAST WEEK...

THERE WERE NO SIGNS THAT YUTAKA-SAMA HAD SLEPT IN HIS BED...

TA
GODASHI

I BELIEVE IT WAS AROUND ONE A.M. YESTERDAY.

I SAW YUTAKA-SAMA RUSHING TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE IN A HURRY...

HEY, HARUHI! WHERE ARE Y—

OUTSIDE!

GOO (ROOOAR)

I'M GOING TO CHECK IF THE BOAT'S THERE!

LIKE WE'RE MISSING SOME KIND OF OBVIOUS CONTRA-DICTION ...!?

THAT'S ODD... IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE MISSING SOME-THING.

...!!

KYON! LOOK AT THAT!

STILL, THIS STORM IS REALLY SOME-THING ...

IF WE FALL OFF THE CLIFF OR SOME-THING, WE'RE GONERS.

ガヤ
ざわ

THE BOAT ISN'T THERE... IT'S GONE!?

.....

CON-SIDERING HOW STRONG THIS STORM IS... IT COULD HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY?

OR ELSE, SOMEBODY TOOK IT AND LEFT...?

ゴー
(HOOOWL)

SO THIS MEANS WE'VE LITERALLY BEEN TRAPPED ON THIS ISLAND...

KYON!

...GOD-DAM-MIT.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT ROCK...

I JUST SAW SOMEONE OVER THERE!

DA (DASH)

HEY, HARUHI ...

NO WAY... IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS STORM?

SHH...

I DON'T KNOW... BUT SOMEONE WAS DEF-INITELY THERE.

COULD IT BE YUTAKA-SAN...?

(UUU (HOOOWL)

INSIDE THAT CAVE?

.....

ZASHA (SPLASH)

AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND IN THIS RAIN MUCH LONGER.

GUESS THAT'S THAT... I'M IN THIS TILL THE END.

.....

...WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO.

I JUST NOTICED HOW THE GRAY SKY OUTSIDE WAS MAKING ME UNCOM-FORTABLE.

I SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT CLOSED SPACES...

PLAYING DETECTIVE ISN'T ALL THAT BAD...

HEY, KYON.

EH?

DIDN'T ARAKAWA-SAN SEE YUTAKA-SAN LATE LAST NIGHT...?

BUT WHEN I TOUCHED KEIICHI-SAN'S BODY EARLIER, IT WAS STILL WARM.

IS YUTAKA-SAN REALLY THE CULPRIT ...?

...WHICH ISN'T CONSISTENT WITH THE ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH.

WHICH MEANS THAT KEIICHI-SAN DIDN'T DIE LAST NIGHT...

...I SEE. YOU HAVE A POINT...

NO, WAIT A SECOND.

I DOUBT THAT YUTAKA-SAN BOTHERED TO RETURN TO THE MANSION IN THE MORNING TO KILL HIM...

IF YUTAKA-SAN WASN'T THE CULPRIT, WHY DID HE NEED TO DISAP-PEAR?

YES. THAT'S THE KEY.

AH!

I'VE GOT IT!

THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS MURDER!

WHEN YUTAKA-SAN STABBED KEIICHI-SAN...THE KNIFE DIDN'T REACH HIS HEART.

KEIICHI-SAN FAINTED FROM THE SHOCK.

SEEING THAT, YUTAKA-SAN BELIEVED HE HAD KILLED HIM...!

TRAGEDY STRUCK LATER... IN OTHER WORDS, THIS MORNING.

.....!

KEIICHI-SAN STOOD UP AFTER REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS AND MOVED TOWARDS THE DOOR WHEN HE TRIPPED OVER HIS OWN FEET.

WE FOUND KEIICHI-SAN LYING FACE-UP.

THE KNIFE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PUSHED INTO HIM LIKE THAT.

...!

BECAUSE THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLA-NATION FOR IT!

WAIT...!!

HOW COULD EVERY-THING HAPPEN SO PER-FECTLY?

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT CONTRA-DICTION?

THAT'S ...

...OH!

.....?

HEEEEY!

!

I GUESS I MISUNDER-STOOD.

...NO, IT'S NOTH-ING.

...WHAT IS IT?

SUZUMIYA-SAN! ARE YOU IN THERE?

EVERY-BODY'S REALLY WORRIED!

.....

BLIIII (WHIRRR)

IN THE END, WE DIDN'T FIND ANYONE IN THAT CAVE...

ALIEN

ALIEN

MEN

ZAAAAA (WSHHH)

DON

DON

DON

HEY, YUKI! OPEN UP!

DON (POUND)

DON

SO WHERE'S THE CULPRIT ...?

WHAT THE—

...HEY, NAGATO.

I WAS TOLD NOT TO OPEN THE DOOR FOR ANYONE.

COME ON, YUKI

GACHA (CLICK)

SHEESH

.....

.....

OR HERE, I'LL OVER-RIDE HER ORDER... OPEN THE DOOR.

HARUHI'S ORDER HAS BEEN RESCINDED.

...SUP-POSED TO BE NAGATO'S IDEA OF A JOKE?

WAS THAT ...?

...HUH?

YOU NEED TO BE MORE FLEXI-BLE!

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE FOR ME TO BE A DETEC-TIVE.

WELL...IT HURTS TO SAY THIS, BUT I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON.

I'LL LET THE COPS HANDLE THE REST.

YOU COULD AT LEAST SMILE WHEN YOU'RE TELLING A JOKE.

GIVE ME A BREAK, NAGATO.

SHE WAS ALL PUMPED UP...WHY DID SHE GIVE UP ON BEING A DETECTIVE?

...BUT IT'S STRANGE ...

...I SEE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE DISCUSSING INSIDE THE CAVE.

MINUTE

...WHAT DID YOU SAY?

...IT APPEARS THAT SHE'S ARRIVED AT THE "CORRECT" ANSWER.

ASIDE FROM THE LAST PART, HER DEDUCTION WAS CORRECT.

...I'LL MAKE THIS SHORT.

THAT MUCH WAS CORRECT.

THE PROBLEM WAS WHAT HAPPENED AFTER KEIICHI-SAN WOKE UP

KEI-ICHI-SAN!

WHEN OUR KNOCKING WOKE HIM UP, HE IMMEDI-ATELY LOCKED THE DOOR.

AFTER ALL, SOMEONE HAD JUST TRIED TO KILL HIM... HE MUST HAVE BEEN CONFUSED.

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT AFTER THAT?

THE TRUE CULPRITS WERE THE ONES WHO BROKE THE DOOR DOWN. MYSELF, YOU, AND ARAKAWA-SAN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I SEE.

.....

THAT'S WHY SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ...

HIDING THE TRUTH WITHIN HER OWN HEART.

... SUZUMIYA-SAN PROBABLY REALIZED THIS.

YURA (STAGGER)

...BUT...

...YOUR STORY MAKES SENSE.

...I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO FIGURE IT OUT.

IF I SEAL YOUR LIPS, THE TRUTH WILL REMAIN HIDDEN.

NU (LOOM)

THAT WOULD BE THE LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION ...!

ARA-KAWA-SAN! MORI-SAN! IT'S TERRI-BLE!!

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

OH NO! IT'S AWFUL!

TA (DASH)

HE HAD A KNIFE STUCK IN HIS CHEST ...!

KOIZUMI-KUN IS DEAD!

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

I WON'T KILL YOU...NOT WHEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.

TO FURTHER ESTABLISH YUTAKA-SAN'S ABNORMAL CHARACTER...!

GIRA (GLINT)

TO MAKE SURE, WE'LL STAB THIS BODY A FEW MORE TIMES.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO EVIL.

...STILL, I'M RATHER SURPRISED ...

THE STORY IS THAT KOIZUMI WAS KILLED BY YUTAKA-SAN WHO HAD SECRETLY RETURNED ...

DO YOU THINK THE POLICE WILL BUY IT?

WAAAIT!!

DOSU (STAB)

NIYARI (SMIRK)

...THE JIG IS UP.

.....

WE'VE LOST.

...HMPH.

IT'S PRETTY FUN TO PLAY THE VILLAIN.

I WAS COMPLETELY FOOLED...

SORRY, ARAKAWA-SAN...

...QUITE IMPRES-SIVE.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO FIGURE EVERY-THING OUT SO QUICKLY.

INDEED, THAT WAS QUITE SUR-PRISING.

KYON-KUN TOLD ME TO DO A LITTLE ACTING.

ARMBAND: GREAT DETECTIVE

THE *GREAT DETECTIVE* HARUHI SUZUMIYA WILL UNVEIL HER BRILLIANT DEDUC-TION!

COME ON, LET'S GET GOING HERE!

I THOUGHT THAT KYON, KOIZUMI-KUN, AND ARAKAWA-SAN WERE THE CULPRITS...!

I WAS FOOLED FOR A WHILE THERE.

AS YOU SHOULD ALL KNOW, KOIZUMI-KUN AND HIS ACCOMPLICES WERE PUTTING ON AN ACT THE WHOLE TIME.

IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH YOU KISS YOUR OWN ASS

THE DOOR DIDN'T HAVE A SCRATCH ON IT WHEN IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PUSHED THE KNIFE IN!

BAN (BAM)

OH, WAIT!! YOU WEREN'T CLEVER ENOUGH!

YOU SHOULDN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE A GREAT DETECTIVE

PFF...

IT COULD HAVE BEEN A STURDY DOOR.

THAT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO PROVE I WAS ALIVE.

HEH HEH... HOLD ON A SECOND.

BUT THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN *TEMPS?*

WHEN WE FIRST MET ARAKAWA-SAN AND MORI-SAN... KOIZUMI-KUN SAID, "IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME."

BAN (BANG)

A DEFINITIVE HINT HAD BEEN GIVEN AT THE VERY BEGINNING!

THE WHOLE THING WAS A PRE-ARRANGED ACT!

ONLY ONE CONCLUSION COULD BE DERIVED FROM THIS INFORMATION!

BAN (BAM)

.....

PACHI ぱち PACHI ぱち

PACHI (CLAP) ぱち

OOOH ～～!

I INTENDED TO REVEAL THE TRUTH A BIT LATER.

GOOD GRIEF... WHAT A DISGRACE.

DON'T TELL ME THAT... NAGATO KNEW EVERY-THING BEFORE-HAND?

AND YOU EVEN GAVE ME A LITTLE PAYBACK AT THE END...

MAN, I'M IMPRESSED.

THIS WAS NO BIG DEAL. ♡

I MIGHT BE A BETTER VILLAIN THAN A DETECTIVE!

THE MOST ENTERTAIN-ING ROLE IN A MYSTERY NOVEL IS THE VILLAIN.

DO (RUMBLE)

SO IT WAS ALL ARRANGED BY YOU AND THAT "AGENCY" THING.

DO

DO

YES... INCLUDING THE TAMARU BROTHERS AND ARAKAWA-SAN AND MORI-SAN...

DO

YOU MUST DECEIVE YOUR ALLIES TO DECEIVE YOUR ENEMIES.

LISTEN TO YOURSELF

I DID SOME PRETTY DARN GOOD DEDUCTION THERE.

DO

IT WAS TO PREVENT SUZUMIYA-SAN FROM GETTING ANY STRANGE IDEAS.

PREPARING AN INCIDENT BEFOREHAND WOULD PREVENT ANYTHING FROM HAPPENING ...

.....

TRUTH BE TOLD, I KNEW FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

DO

INCIDENTALLY, WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THE WHOLE THING WAS A LIE?

DO

THAT'S HOW SHE IS.

DO

...YOU HAVE FAITH IN SUZUMIYA-SAN.

DO

...HMPH.

BECAUSE HARUHI WOULD NEVER TRULY WISH FOR A MURDER TO HAPPEN.

SHADOW...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

.....?

LET ME ASK ONE MORE QUESTION.

WHAT WAS THAT SHADOW HARUHI SAW DURING THE STORM?

IF YOU SAW SOMETHING, IT CAME FROM A THIRD PARTY...!?

WE'VE ALREADY GONE THROUGH THE ENTIRE SCENARIO THAT WAS PREPARED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DIDN'T YOU PEOPLE SET IT UP?

WHAT DID YOU SAY...?

IT APPEARS THAT THIS WAS THE REAL SURPRISE.

SUZUMIYA-SAN WISHED FOR A CULPRIT THAT WASN'T A MEMBER OF THE SOS BRIGADE.

MOST LIKELY, THAT "CHARACTER" IS STILL...

BJWA (BLAST)

AND THAT DESIRE CREATED ANOTHER CHARACTER ON THAT REMOTE ISLAND.

GOOD GRIEF.

IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR IF THE GREAT DETECTIVE IN A MYSTERY NOVEL WAS CREATING SUSPECTS BEHIND THE SCENES.

I'M GOING TO PRAY SHE WAS JUST SEEING THINGS.

REMOTE ISLAND SYNDROME II : END

TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 25
A *hikikomori* is an individual who has shut himself off from society for a period of six months or more, usually sequestering themselves at home and venturing outdoors only to obtain sustenance on occasion; a shut-in.

Page 27
Warabimochi is a summer confection of bracken starch and sweet toasted soybean flour.

Page 127
Tsuchinoko is a creature from Japanese legend that resembles a venomous snake.

TO BE CONTINUED

YOU HAVE LOGGED OFF.
SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA 4

Original Story: Nagaru Tanigawa
Manga: Gaku Tsugano
Character Design: Noizi Ito

Translation: Chris Pai for MX Media LLC
Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

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